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for all the lands and trees in the village might be decided by the Settlement Officer appointed under that Act. The village was taken over under the Abolition Act recently on 27th May 1953 and action under the Act is being taken.

"(d) to (f) No such representation has been received by the Government."

Gruel centres in Kovvur and Polavaram taluks, West Godavari district.

* 769 Q.—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any official information that gruel centres have been started at Gopalapuram of Kovvur taluk (West Godavari district) by private individuals to relieve the distressed; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to start gruel centres at some places in Kovvur and Polavaram taluks of West Godavari district?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"(a) The Government have no information.

"(b) No."

House-tax in Vijayavada.

* 770 Q.—T. POTHA RAJU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vijayavada Municipal Council has passed a resolution to the effect that all the houses which come under a monthly rental value of Rs. 35 or below should be exempted from taxation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the above proposal; and

(c) what the Government propose to do in this respect?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"(a) Yes.

"(b) Yes.

"(c) The request of the Municipal Council was negatived as section 83 (5) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, permits municipal councils to exempt any building or land from property tax only where the annual value does not exceed Rs. 18."

Residential scholarships to Harijan students in Coimbatore district.

* 771 Q.—SRI P. G. MANICKAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Harijan students (boys and girls) studying in the Elementary Schools, Middle Schools and High Schools in the Coimbatore district; and

(*b*) whether the Government take steps through the Education department to sanction residential scholarships to all the students referred to in (*a*)?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—"(*a*) The particulars are not readily available. They have to be gathered and compiled from each school in the district. The work will involve considerable time and labour and will not be commensurate with the purpose served.

"(*b*) Residential scholarships to the students belonging to the eligible communities are sanctioned by the Harijan Welfare Department only from Form I and above. The scholarships are sanctioned to the deserving students subject to the Budget allotment. It will not be possible for the Government to sanction residential scholarships to all the students who apply for it."

Representations from the Guntur Tobacco Marketing Committee.

* 772 *Q*—SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation has been received by the Government from the Guntur Tobacco Marketing Committee stating that the public auction scheme introduced by the Government in Mangalagiri, Guntur and Tadikonda centres has not been helpful to the tobacco growers of those centres due to the non-co-operation of the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company which is the biggest purchaser of Virginia tobacco grown in those centres;

(*b*) if so, what steps were taken by the Government;

(*c*) what financial help has been given to the Marketing Committee for constructing godowns and auction floors; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to extend the public auction scheme to all the centres where Virginia tobacco is grown?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

The Guntur Market Committee requested that steps might be taken to persuade the major companies dealing in tobacco to purchase in the market yards established by the Market Committee at least such quantities of tobacco as they were purchasing in their own depots situated outside the restricted areas of the market yards during this season.

" (*b*) The Government do not have the power under the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act or Rules to compel the companies to make purchases in the Committee's market yards as suggested by the Committee.

" (*c*) The Government have sanctioned loans and also subsidies for the construction of godowns and auction floors to the Guntur Market Committee whenever it stood in need of such help.